

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 SY-04

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 USIA-15 A-01

L-03 DRC-01 /094 W

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P R 231331Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6162

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, US, AR

SUBJ: RESOLUTION IN CONGRESS ASKING FOR INVESTIGATION OF
LAUN'S ACTIVITIES

1. DEPUTIES REPRESENTING COMMUNIST PARTY (PCA) AND
INTRASIGENT PARTY (ALENDE'S PARTY, WHICH IS IF ANYTHING TO
THE LEFT OF THE PCA) PRESENTED A RESOLUTION IN THE
NATIONAL CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES APR 19 WHICH WHILE REGRETTING
"THE INCIDENT IN WHICH HE WAS A VICTIM," ASKED FOR AN
INVESTIGATION OF LAUN'S ACTIVITIES IN CORDOBA AND EXPRESSED
SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE "DISCOVERY OF A POWERFUL RADIO
TRANSMITTER INSTALLED IN HIS HOUSE." THE SAME DEPUTIES CALLED
ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROHIBIT DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO
ARGENTINA FROM THE USE OF SHORT WAVE RADIOS, RADIO TELEPHONES,
"OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITY WHICH INVOLVES NATIONAL SECURITY OR
EXCEEDS THE LIMITS RECOGNIZED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW."

2. CONSIDERING THE SOURCE, THE RESOLUTION IS NOT SURPRISING.
SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF THE REACTION IT IS
RECEIVING IN THE CHAMBER. UNFORTUNATELY, LAUN'S RADIO
EQUIPMENT HAS RAISED SOME SUSPICIONS EVEN AMONG FRIENDLY
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CIRCLES. NORMALLY FRIENDLY MAYORIA CARRIED ARTICLE APR 22

WHICH IMPLIED THAT LAUN MIGHT HAVE BEEN DOING MORE THAN CULTURAL/INFORMATIONAL WORK IN CORDOBA. EVEN SOME US NEWS-MEN HAVE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN MORE THAN MET THE EYE, ELSE LAUN WOULD NOT HAVE HAD SUCH SOPHISTICATED RADIO EQUIPMENT.

3. EMBASSY PRIVATELY IS STRESSING TO PRESS AND POLITICAL CONTACTS THAT LAUN WAS NOTHING OTHER THAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER AND THAT HIS ACTIVITIES AS HAM RADIO OPERATOR WERE WELL KNOWN AND PERFECTLY ABOVE BOARD, AS INDICATED BY FACT HE HELD ARGENTINE LICENSE AND BELONGED TO LOCAL HAM RADIO OPERATORS CLUB IN CORDOBA.
HILL

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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